

Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." —Steele.

VOL. 1, No. 2.



NOVEMBER, 1935.

WELLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

By JOSEPH NORRIE, Chief Librarian.

I have been asked by your Committee to give some idea of public library work here in Wellington.

On December 1, 1840, a meeting of about twelve hundred Wellington settlers considered the advisability of opening a Public Library and Reading Room. The Port Nicholson Mechanics' Institute, Public School and Library was the result. In 1892 the Port Nicholson Mechanics' Institute was taken over by the Wellington City Council and the present Central Library building was erected. In 1902 the Newtown Branch was established, followed by other branches in subsequent years. During 1928 I presented a report to the City Council concerning the library service generally and advocating a system of Branch Libraries throughout the suburbs for administration from the Central Library. Since that report branch libraries have been opened in Wadestown and Miramar. Another library, the eighth of the system, is to be opened at Lylly Bay before the end of this year.

With a system of seven libraries it is almost impossible, in spite of the large reduction in overhead expenses, to carry out library service to the people of Wellington to the best advantage. When the present Central Library building was built 80 books a day was the average issue. The average daily issue for the city is at present 2,491, and the Central Library accounts for about half that figure. It is expected that the new library building will contain departments which should make library work here an even more vital

thing than it has become. The library is to cost £60,000. The Reference Department will contain adequate provision for periodicals and for the proper accommodation of New Zealand books which form a very fine collection. The Lending Department will be constructed on a modern plan, no book stacks being placed so as to hide the public from the assistants at the desk. The site which has been set apart is not that on which the existing building stands, but one very close, stretching from Mercer Street through to Harris Street and, being rectangular, will make designing a comparatively simple matter. Plans are at present being drawn up to be entered for the City Council's competition; and in drawing up the specifications upon which the plans are to be based, Mr Cecil Wood of Christchurch and myself, who are assessors, for purposes of the competition, directed particular attention to be devoted to the housing of junior books, music, the two Schools systems administered by the libraries, the bindery, which is at present located with the schools systems at Newtown, and proper cataloguing quarters. Provision will be made for photostatic equipment, special collections of pictures, maps, cuttings, postcards, etc., and for a vertical file.

It is difficult to be hospitable in any practical way in the present Central Library although one is always glad to receive a visit from librarians or members of committees, but in a new building it should be quite within our power to provide for a visitor to obtain a thorough idea of the nature and main lines of work within a comparatively short visit to the building, and I hope that people engaged in library work all over the country will

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avail themselves of whatever opportunities they may have of coming to look over the various departments.

May I in conclusion wish the "Linwood Library Gazette" every success.

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

Flaming Veldt. By Jessie Parker. A light story with the flaming veldt as a background of a pretty woman married to an egotistical and selfish man. Disillusionment follows, a tragedy and a happy ending.

John o' the Green. Jeffery Farnol. With his usual virile and vital style Jeffery Farnol tells of the adventures of Amery John, known as a wandering jester, rogue and outlaw, on a dangerous mission for King Tristan of Gerance. How he succeeds and at the same time wins the love of a proud and exalted lady the reader will find very entrancing.

Poisoned Mountain, by Mark Canning, is an interesting tale of the thrilling experiences of a secret service officer and his wife in a country closed in by mountains somewhere in Tibet.

The Fortunes of Evadne. A rollicking tale by Dorothea Conyers with delightful scenes in Ireland as a background.

Priscilla Falls in Love. Pamela Wynne. A romance with two heroines—one Priscilla Wingfield who marries late in life and finds greater happiness than she expected. The other, Rosemary Dean, who marries an Indian, finds life none too smooth at first, but in the end she also finds happiness. The story, generally, is sympathetically told.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Black Horse Rider A. Jocelyn
Blindfold Patricia Wentworth
The Case of the Curious Bride ... E. S. Gardner
Death of a First Mate Chas. Barry
Dian of the Lost Land Edison Marshall
Erie Water W. A. Edmonds
The Flaming Veldt Jessie Parker
Gold in the Desert Robt. Ames Bennet
Gun Smoke Stone Cody
Illyrian Spring Ann Bridge
Insolence of Youth E. W. Savi
John o' the Green Jeffery Farnol
Life and Love Denise Robins
Lucy Gayheart Willa Cather
Luxury Model May Christie
Made To Care Deirdre O'Brien
The Man Behind the Chair ... Winifred Graham
Outspan Jane England
Peggy Paradine, House Agent Mairi O'Nair
Priscilla Falls in Love Pamela Wynne
Red Devil of the Range G. O. Baxter
Regency Buck Georgette Heyer
Secret Heart Olive Wadsley

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BOOKS PLACED IN THE JUVENILE SECTION FOR THIS MONTH.

The Air Treasure Hunt Jack Heming
Bringing Down the Air Pirates

John C. Westerman

The Air Circus Jack Heming
The Terror of the Seas P. F. Westerman
Wing Above Billabong Mary Grant Bruce
Pioneer Pat Ethel Talbot
The Worst Fifth On Record .. Winifred Norling
A Jolly Trio Mary Louise Parker
The School at the Turrets Angela Brazil
Clown of the School Constance Machness

Special mention must be made of the following books:—

Lawrence in Arabia, by R. H. Kiernan. An interesting book giving a clear and vivid account of Lawrence's exploits and the Arab Revolt.

The Crimson Caterpillar, by Sercombe Griffin. A story of a Crimson Caterpillar invented by a French boy named Henri who with his English cousin Tony goes across the Sahara Desert, meets all kinds of perils, together having a really hectic time.

Deville McKeene, by Rowland Walker. The story is woven around a mystery man, one Deville McKeene, a brilliant fighting pilot and a secret service man. A glorious record of amazing gallantry and effacing heroism, which will thrill the reader.

A WORTHY CHRISTMAS GIFT.

With the approach of the Christmas season and its recurring gift problem, we would suggest to our subscribers that in many instances the problem may be easily and satisfactorily solved. A year's subscription to the Library costs but six shillings and provides unlimited reading for the twelve months. What could be better than such a gift? It brings in its train untold joy, as our readers know from personal experience.

CURRENT COMMENT.

In the latest issue of the Wellington Public Libraries' official organ, "The Readers' Review," there is an encouraging editorial welcoming the appearance of our Gazette. Both the Chief Librarian, Mr J. Norrie, and the Chief Assistant Librarian, Mr C. S. Perry, have written to us congratulating Linwood on its production and wishing it every success.

Mr John Barr, Auckland, has also sent his congratulations and trusts that Linwood will keep up the standard set, and that the results aimed for will be achieved.



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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1 November, 1935 No. 2

SUMMER READING.

While it is an undoubted fact that reading as a pastime is indulged in to a far greater degree in the winter months than during the summer, there is no reason why our membership should show a decline when the great outdoors calls again at the passing of winter.

Immediately preceding the Christmas holidays is the period of the year when booksellers and libraries are inundated with a great influx of books from overseas. Admittedly, these are published in the Old World during the winter months of the Northern Hemisphere, but the fact remains that these books are sold and read in their thousands during our summer.

Perhaps a lighter type of novel is mostly favoured for holiday reading, and here we might say that our bookbuyers, representing your committee, are anxious to meet the popular demand.

Suggestions from readers, mentioning their favourite authors or indicating the type of book desired will be welcomed. It is the earnest wish of the committee to further popularise the Linwood Public Library and the co-operation of subscribers will greatly assist towards this end.

Even if readers curtail their reading hours during the summer, a continuance

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
Linwood Public Library.

of their full subscription is eminently desirable, affording as it does, a non-shrinking income, available to our book-buyers during the height of the season when the number of new books is at its highest point.

Another branch of the Library's activities specially suited to summer readers is the magazine department. When on holiday, whether the annual vacation or a day at the seaside, a magazine is the ideal pocket companion, providing light fare for idle moments.

Our shelves contain all the popular current magazines of English and American origin, attractively bound in stiff covers. These may be taken by subscribers in place of novels or non-fiction books and are sometimes the means of affording a pleasant change to the reader.

With the approach of summer we would commend to our subscribers the suggestion underlying these remarks,—keep your full subscriptions going the whole year round, for the benefit of "Our Library" and all concerned.

* * * *

We would again remind subscribers that our columns are open to correspondents who may wish to ventilate their opinions on library matters. We invited criticism in our last issue, but, at the time of going to press, we have received no correspondence.

Perhaps this is a compliment to the Library Committee, since it infers that our readers have no criticism to offer. However, we wish to emphasise the point that the Committee's desire is to work in closer co-operation with subscribers. Any suggestions that may be considered helpful towards the management of the Library should be committed to paper and addressed to The Editor, Linwood Public Library.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR.

A few words about the method of issuing T. E. Lawrence's classic, "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom" will, perhaps, be of interest to those anxious to read it.

We bought two copies and as the book runs to over 600 pages, have decided to divide each book into two volumes, and have these strengthened and re-bound. Further, owing to the keen demand, the time limit is reduced from the usual 14 days to 10 days—and please take note—subscribers retaining the volume over 10 days will incur a fine of 1d per day—strictly enforced. If subscribers read the book in less than the prescribed time please return as soon as possible. The quicker we can re-issue, the greater will be the satisfaction to all.

We request that every care shall be taken of these volumes. They are expensive and when worn out, will probably be difficult to replace.

Use the permanent bookmark attached. Carefully examine each volume at the time of issue, as returning subscriber will be held liable for damage.

We are pleased to be able to announce that at the meeting held on October 16th, the General Committee authorised the purchase of two additional copies of this work. We need scarcely add that no time will be lost in placing these in circulation. The waiting list is much longer than we expected, but if subscribers return the books without waste of time, our difficulties will be correspondingly lessened, and the list reduced.

OUR FOUNDERS—No. 2.

William Taylor McKay.

One of the prime movers, with Mr D. Richardson, in the matter of establishing the Linwood Public Library was Mr McKay. Early in life he realised the great value of libraries in furthering education and within a few years of settling in Linwood became interested in a number of local activities, including the Linwood Citizens' Association, a body that will be remembered by its successful endeavours to secure Linwood Park for the people and for its advocacy of a Greater Christchurch scheme. As one of the Library's founder's he, together with Mr A. Marshall, was responsible for the selection of the first books to be placed on the shelves.

Mr McKay was born at Strichen, Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1864. He arrived at Lyttelton in June, 1866. The Lyttelton tunnel was then in the making, so that his fellow passengers were forced to walk to Christchurch via the Bridle Path, the weaker sex taking small boats to Ferry Mead, near Ferry Road.

He has many interesting recollections of the early days, his schooling taking place on the site now occupied by Warners' Hotel. His first impressions of Linwood were gained about 1875, when the first Grand National was run over country in the vicinity of Rolleston Street and Gloucester Street. The big water jump in this

event was just east of the corner on which the Baptist Church now stands in Worcester Street extension.

In 1880, our friend was apprenticed to the "Lyttelton Times" as a compositor. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship he was transferred to newspaper work and after fifty-five years service has recently retired. Long may he be spared to indulge his longings for work of a social nature on behalf of his fellow citizens.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, October 16th, the Secretary reported that 39 adult and 19 juvenile new members had joined the Library; resignations for the period numbered 50. The total on the roll now being 1857. The receipts from all quarters totalled £70/13/9, and the expenditure on books and magazines amounted to £57/18/1.

It was decided to continue the concessions to Old Age Pensioners and those wishing to avail themselves of it either for renewals or new membership may do so on production of their certificates.

Owing to the heavy demand it was decided to purchase two more copies of the "Seven Pillars of Wisdom."

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr C. J. Cox who passed away at his residence on October 22nd. He was one of the oldest members of the Library Committee, having served some nineteen years and holding several important positions during that period. He held office as President for a term and acted as co-book-buyer for a while.

He was ever willing to do more than his share as committeeman and librarian; for many years sacrificing his Saturday afternoons in the Library's interests, in addition to his usual Monday evening duties. His presence will be sorely missed from the Library and we know that subscribers will join with the Committee in extending their deepest sympathy to his relatives in their sad loss.

NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED.

From Silver to Steel—The Romance of Broken Hill, By Roy Bridges. This unusually interesting book tells us of a hill in a sheep station, trodden by sheep and shepherds. Then the discovery of the precious metal by one of the shepherds, later silver and tin, and finally iron. A mountain of metal. Mr Bridges has given us a most fascinating book on men and metal in and on a hill.

Maste- Minds of Modern Science. T. C. Bridges and H. H. Tiltman. This book is somewhat reminiscent of David Masters' "The Glory of Britain," as it very largely deals with the researches and discoveries of Britain's sons. Among the galaxy of genius, shines the devotion and sacrifice of Sir Ronald Ross in his search for the

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cause of malaria, the uncanny delving in pursuit of the ultimate, of Lord Rutherford, the divine vision of Sir J. A. Thomson, the miracle of the versatile brain of Sir Oliver Lodge, and many other famous scientists make this book a book of marvels. One is amazed as one reads page by page of splendid achievements in the onward march by science. Well worth a place in a reader's private collection.

Vanished Fleets. Strange Tales of the Sea. A. J. Villers. This is a story of days gone by, of ships, and Tasmania. Hobart Town in its early days, followed by the horrors of the convict ships, then the whalers early in the last century, closing with the fine Hobart clipper ships. Mr Villers spent a full year in gathering material, and succeeded so well that only a portion could be used in this book, but in the use of that portion he has given us a vastly entertaining and informative book tinged here and there with tragedy and gloom.

The Book of Practical Radio. A. Scott-Taggart. This book is intended as a help to the constructor and guide to the service man. It is a compendium of practical knowledge which should give the amateur a grounding in radio technique sufficient for him to understand, to operate, repair and service almost any kind of radio receiver. There are 300 pages in the book, lavishly illustrated with photographs and plans of radio parts, etc. While the contents of this book are specially written for the beginner, there is nevertheless, enough here to give the expert much material for creative thought.

"My Life Story." J. R. Hobbs. To sing the praises of Jack Hobbs as a cricketer, is like painting the lily, but this book is well worth reading, as an exposition of the sterling worth of the man. Great as was his success and lavish the praise, Jack Hobbs, unassuming and modest, smiled his way through all. Early in the book he tells us that the atmosphere of his boyhood was religious. Towards the end when Mr Leveson-Gower asked his approval of an appeal to the members of the Surrey Cricket Club, for the erection of a wall round the Surrey Cricket Ground, with gates to bear his name, he was deeply touched and wondered what he had done to deserve so great an honour! Our admiration for the cricketer is only equalled in sincerity by our admiration for the man, Jack Hobbs.

Congo Jake. Augustus C. Collodon. Augustus C. Collodon was born on a canal boat on a Cheshire canal. At the age of 10 he was sold by his father to a sea captain for 20/-. Sailing with his purchase: Captain Jonathan Scratch, was the commencement of a life of adventure and Augustus had no complaint that his life was without events, for they followed thick and fast and he seemed to revel in something new. He was nearly 20 before he could read or write. Tragedy overtook him, losing both his wife and child. For the first time he lost heart. However, the book closes with the despair conquered, and at peace with all the world he concludes "I have lived."